CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revamped Public Distribution System in Orissa has already come into operation;

(b) is so, the number of PDS outlets which have so far been opened in Kalahandi district following such revamping;

(c) what was the quantum of allotment of rice to those Fair Price Shops and what was the offtake of rice from October, 1992 to March, 1993;

(d) whether the offtake of rice in those Fair Price Shops is adequate, if not, what are the reasons for the lean offtake; and

(e) the number of Fair Price Shops which are provided with the additional listed items such as soap, edible oil, salt, pulses and kerosene oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The information is being obtained and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Licence for Shops under PDS

676. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of fair price shops, kerosene oil depots and cheap rate cloth shops under PDS being run by women's welfare organisations disabled persons and the organisations|persons separately who are in need of Government assistance in the country, particularly in rural areas in Northern States, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have reserved any percentage of licences for allotment of Fair Price Shops, Kerosene oil depots and cheap rate cloth shops under PDS to women organisations, disabled persons, unemployed graduates and ex-servicemen particularly for rural areas in that States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;

(d) whether any scheme is under consideration to provide licence for real needy persons, organisations, unemployed graduates, disabled persons and ex-servicemen who are residing in rural areas of northern states of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (f) The operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System rests with the State Governments|UT Administrations. Decisions regarding the number of fair price shops to be opened, allocation of such fair price shops including decisions about preferential allocations|reservations to specific categories of persons|organisations are matters decided by the State Government|UT Administrations. The Central Government has requested the State Government to consider reservation|preferential allotments of fair price shops to ex-Servicemen. Scheduled Castes and women including women's organisations and women's cooperatives. Details of the actual number of fair price shops|depots allotted to any of these categories are not maintained by the Central Government.